



U.S. Department of Justice

Kenneth J. Gonzales

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District of New Mexico

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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. ATTORNEY NAMES DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced today that Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Jonathon M. Gerson will lead the efforts of his Office in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 2, 2010 general elections. AUSA Gerson has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer for the District of New Mexico, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters in Washington.

United States Attorney Gonzales said, "Every citizen must be able to vote without interference or discrimination and to have that vote counted without it being stolen because of fraud. The Department of Justice will act promptly and aggressively to protect the integrity of the election process."

Eight years ago, former Attorney General Ashcroft established a Department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of this ongoing Initiative are to

increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls, and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers these goals, and also seeks to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department for the public to report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day.

The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise, exercise it if they choose, and that those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice. In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 2, 2010, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, United States Attorney Gonzales stated that AUSA Gerson will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. He can be reached by the public at the following telephone numbers: (505) 224-1443 and (505) 346-7274.

In addition, the FBI will have Special Agents available in each Field Office and Resident Agency throughout the country to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses on election day. The FBI can be reached by the public at (505) 889-1300.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1 (800) 253-3931 or (202) 307-2767.

United States Attorney Gonzales said, "The effectiveness of our Election Day Program depends in large part on the watchfulness and cooperation of the American

electorate. It is imperative that those who have specific information about discrimination or election fraud make that information available immediately to my Office, the FBI, or the Civil Rights Division.”

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